

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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February 26, 2004

**Notice Of Technical Review Workshop
For The
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS)
Reef Mitigation Project**

A public workshop will be conducted by Coastal Commission staff and contract scientists to review the status of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) artificial reef mitigation project. *The workshop is not a public hearing, and no regulatory decisions on the project will be made at the workshop.*

The workshop is open to all and will consist of a **technical session** that will focus on specific scientific issues and allow in-depth discussion on the monitoring and evaluation of the artificial reef mitigation project. A preliminary draft agenda for the workshop is attached.

The workshop will be held on:

March 22, 2004
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
City of San Clemente Community Center
100 North Calle Seville
San Clemente, California

For more information, please contact Jody Loeffler at 415-904-5255 (or email at jloeffler@coastal.ca.gov) or Dan Reed at 805-893-7047 (or email at reed@lifesci.ucsb.edu).

BACKGROUND

Four mitigation projects are required as conditions of Southern California Edison Company's (SCE) coastal development permit for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Units 2 and 3 (permit no. 6-81-330A, formerly 183-73). The conditions originally were adopted by the Commission in 1991 to mitigate the adverse impacts of the power plant on the marine environment. The 1991 conditions also require SCE to provide the funds necessary for Commission staff's technical oversight and independent monitoring of the mitigation projects, to be carried out by independent contract scientists under the direction of the Executive Director.

In 1993, the Commission added a requirement for the permittee to partially fund construction of an experimental fish hatchery. Due to its experimental nature, the Commission did not assign mitigation credit to the hatchery requirement.

In 1997 after extensive review of new kelp impact studies, the Commission revised the kelp mitigation requirements. With the inclusion of those amendments, the required mitigation now includes: (1) creation or restoration of at least 150 acres of tidal wetland in southern California,

(2) installation of fish barrier devices at the power plant, (3) construction of an artificial reef large enough to sustain 150 acres of medium to high density kelp bed community, together with funding for a mariculture/marine fish hatchery, and (4) provision of funds for the Commission's technical oversight and independent monitoring of the mitigation projects.

PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP

The Commission's technical oversight and independent monitoring program provides for periodic public review of the performance of the SONGS mitigation projects.

The artificial reef mitigation project has progressed to a point where it is useful to convene a public workshop to review its status and report on monitoring results. The experimental portion of the kelp reef was constructed in September 1999 and the fourth year of the five-year monitoring program has been completed. The design of the larger mitigation reef will be contingent on the results of the experimental reef. ***The workshop is not a public hearing, nor will regulatory decisions be made on the mitigation project at the workshop.*** Rather, the workshop will provide information on the status of the project and monitoring results, help identify problems, and make recommendations for solving them. The Commission staff will use the information presented in carrying out its oversight and monitoring of the mitigation project.

It is the Commission's intention that the review workshop be attended by representatives of the State and Federal resource agencies, local government representatives, scientists interested in restoration and monitoring programs, and the general public. The workshop will be conducted by the Commission staff and contract scientists. Representatives from SCE and its consultants and members of the Commission's Scientific Advisory Panel also will be on hand to provide further scientific viewpoints on the mitigation projects and oversight and monitoring program.

Preliminary Draft Agenda

Fourth Annual Public Workshop
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Mitigation Project:
REEF MITIGATION PROJECT
Monday, March 22, 2004
1:00 PM—4:00 PM
San Clemente Community Center

The format of the workshop will be a series of presentations that report on the results of the first four years of the five-year experimental phase of the SONGS artificial reef mitigation project. Questions and discussion will follow each presentation.

- 1:00 Introduction
- 1:15 Fixed Performance Standards
 - Hard Substrate
 - Giant kelp
 - Fish Biomass
- 2:00 Relative Performance Standards
 - Benthic invertebrates and algae
 - Kelp bed fish
 - Invasive species (*Muricea* spp.)
- 3:10 Break
- 3:25 Beach Monitoring
- 3:50 Timeline for construction of mitigation reef
- 4:00 Adjourn